

## **5070 GRADUATIONS, DIPLOMAS, AND CERTIFICATES**

Each senior high school shall arrange graduation exercises within limits prescribed by the School Board. The School Board shall authorize funds for building rental, speaker, musical entertainment, flowers, and other decorations it deems necessary for graduation exercises. If students are required to wear caps and gowns at graduation exercises, the School District shall budget monies to provide for caps and gowns. If the School District or the high schools do not provide caps and gowns at no expense to students, such attire shall not be required for graduation exercises. The senior class may decide that they will raise funds for this purpose. Such funds must provide all graduating seniors with the items the class decides to rent.

Students who have completed requirements for a diploma shall participate in graduation exercises, but participation is not a requirement for graduation. If a student with a disability satisfactorily meets the requirements for graduation that were established by the IEP team, the student must be granted a high school diploma that is identical to the diploma granted to a student without a disability who graduates. (Minn. Stat § 125A.04). A student with a disability who is not graduating may nonetheless participate in the graduation ceremony and receive certification of attendance if the student has met the credit requirements for graduation but has not met the goals in the IEP required for graduation. There shall be no formal graduation exercises for elementary and middle schools.

A diploma or secondary school equivalency certificate shall be issued to a student who has satisfactorily completed curriculum requirements prescribed by the Minnesota State Board of Education and local School Board policy. Two kinds of certificates shall be issued:

1. The high school diploma issuance shall be based upon completion of State Board of Education requirements.
2. The secondary school equivalency certificate shall be based upon obtaining satisfactory scores on the General Education Development Tests and the meeting of other State requirements.

### **Minnesota World Language Proficiency Certificate, Bilingual Seal, and Multilingual Seal**

Duluth Public Schools may award Minnesota bilingual and multilingual seals to high school graduates who demonstrate the required levels of language proficiency in speaking, writing, reading and listening for languages other than English, including American Sign Language (ASL) and American Indian (indigenous) languages in grades 10, 11, 12 regardless of how the language was learned. Bilingual and multilingual seals are awarded upon graduation. World language proficiency certificates can be awarded when students meet proficiency requirements. Proficiency assessments must be based on the ACTFL proficiency guidelines in one or more languages in addition to English. A list of assessments can be found on the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) World Language web page. (<http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/dse/stds/world/>)

Foreign students attending a senior high school as part of a recognized student exchange program, will be issued a certificate of attendance for the academic year, grade level and school attended. If the student is considered to be a senior, the certificate of attendance will be issued in lieu of a diploma.

References: MSA 120.72  
EDU 43, Rules of the State Sch Bd  
Statute 120B.022

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